Agreement with Foreign Country for Supply of Fertilizers

1353. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with any foreign country for the supply of fertilizers during the last two years and till date; and

(b) if so, the details and the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHIR P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b(. Trade Protocols singed under rupee payment arrangements with some of the countries, namely, USSR, GDR, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Romania provided, inter alia, for supply of fertilizers and fertilizer raw materials during 1989, 1990 and 1991. Pertilizers and fertilizer raw materials imported from these countries during these years are Sulphur, MOP, DAP, Ammonia and urea. Purchases are made by the MMTC from rupee payment area countries through direct negotiations in their best commercial judgment.

Apart from this, MMTC also imports fertilizer and its raw materials from commercial organisations/agencies from CCA countries. Such purchases are done through tenders, followed by negotiations in the event offers are not in line with the international market, or through negotiations alone.

Marketing and other facilities provided to Handloom Weavers of Bihar

1354. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of hank yarn provided to handloom weavers of Bihar during 1990-91 through Government and semi-Government agencies;

(b) the financial assistance provided to yarn manufacturing units in Bihar during 1990-91;

(c) the proportion of requirement of dyes, chemicals and other inputs, apart from yarn, by handloom weavers provided by the National Handloom Development Corporation during 1990-91;

(d) the financial assistance provided to apex cooperative societies in Bihar under the Market Development Scheme during 1990-91;

(e) the amount of central loan or grant-in-aid released during 1990-91, by the Government of Bihar under various schemes, scheme-wise, for improving the marketability of handloom products, increasing employment opportunities for handloom weavers and improving their working and living conditions; and

(f) the value of handloom products originating in Bihar purchased by the Government or semi-Government agencies for marketing outside the State during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) During 1990-91, the National Handloom Development Corporation supplied yarn worth Rs. 379.61 lakh to the handloom weavers and their agencies in Bihar.

(b) Government of India have not provided any financial assistance to the spinning mills in Bihar during 1990-91.

(c) Supply of dyes and chemicals is in the decentralised sector and Government of India does not maintain data on total con-

sumption of dyes and chemicals in the consumption of dyes and chemicals in the handloom sector. During 1990-91 NHDC supplied dyes and chemicals worth Rs. 2.56 lakhs to Bihar.

(d) No releases have been made to any handloom agency in Bihar during 1990-91 under Market Development Assistance Scheme.

(e) The following are the scheme-wise released made by Central Government to Government of Bihar during 1990-91:-

Name of the Scheme	*Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)*
Loan assistance for creating pre-loom/post-loom processing facilities.	20
Grant-in-aid for rehabilitation of riot affected handloom weavers of Bhagalpur.	110.00
Grant-in-aid for production of Janata cloth.	409.75

(f) The data on procurement/sales of handloom products for inter-State transaction is not maintained by Government of India.

[*Translation*]

Export of Processed Fruits and other Products

1355. SHRI GOVIND RAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of processed fruits and other products are exported;

(b) if so, whether the Government monitors the quality control of these goods;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to monitor the quality control of the goods to be exported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The quality is monitored in respect of items notified for compulsory pre-shipment inspection under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 as amended from time to time and arise as per AGMARK specifications notified in respect of certain specified commodities under various Grading & Marketing Rules. Compulsory pre-shipment inspection is, however, not insisted upon in respect of the items notified under the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, provided the exporter has a firm lettter from overseas buyer stating that the overseas buyer does not want pre-shipment inspection from any official Indian inspection agency. Also, the Star Trading Houses, Trading Houses, Export Hosues, units set up in EPZ, FTZ and 100% EOUs